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PATENT
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Ronny van't Oever, *et al.*

Serial No.: (Not yet assigned) **091874 493**

Filed: June 5, 2001

For: OPTICAL METHOD AND APPARATUS
FOR RED BLOOD CELL DIFFERENTIATION
ON A CELL-BY-CELL BASIS, AND
SIMULTANEOUS ANALYSIS OF WHITE
BLOOD CELL DIFFERENTIATION

Attorney Docket No.: 6811.US.O1

Group Art Unit: (Not yet assigned)

Examiner: (Not yet assigned)

Date: June 21, 2001

Certificate of Mailing under 37 CFR §1.8(a):

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail addressed to:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

on June **22**, 2001

Name of person signing
this certificate: Wanda E. Smith

Signature:

Wanda E. Smith

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith is a Preliminary Amendment for Ronny van't Oever, *et al.*, for OPTICAL METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR RED BLOOD CELL DIFFERENTIATION ON A CELL-BY-CELL BASIS, AND SIMULTANEOUS ANALYSIS OF WHITE BLOOD CELL DIFFERENTIATION, the specification of which was filed on June 5, 2001.

Also enclosed is a return-receipt postcard

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional Filing Fees required under 37 CFR 1.16, as well as any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17 associated with this communication for which full payment has not been tendered, to Deposit Account No. 01-0025. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,
Ronny van't Oever, *et al.*

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as indicated below.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace claims 1 and 12 as follows:

1. A three-dimensional optical method for determining the volume, V, and hemoglobin content, HC, of individual red blood cells, said method comprising the steps of;
 - a) treating an anti-coagulated whole blood sample with a reagent solution, said solution comprising a sphering agent and a neutrally buffered isotonic saline solution;
 - b) passing red blood cells of said sample in single file through a light beam directed along an optical path at a selected wave length;
 - c) measuring the resultant magnitude of a first forward angle light scatter signal, a second intermediate angle light scatter signal, and a third side-angle light scatter signal from each cell;